

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 16 has been canceled. No claims have been amended or added. Claims 1, 5, 8, and 18-20 are pending and under consideration. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

At page 2 of the Office Action, claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,333,615 issued to Maezawa et al. in view of Japanese Patent Publication No. JP09-042406 by Nakagawa. As with all previous cancellations in this application, claim 16 is herein cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer only in the interest of expediting prosecution.

ALLOWED CLAIMS

The Applicants acknowledge with appreciation that claims 1, 5, 8, and 18-20 have been allowed.

CONCLUSION

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. And further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such issues.


Serial No. 10/790,697

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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